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Conversation: Spyware Workshop - Comment, P044509
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This is a comment sent in response to an e-mail I received as part of my authorized subscription to PCPitstop.com.

It's never fair to grant spyware and adware companies "free speech/free trade" concerns to outweigh and outplay my right to computer privacy.

These companies compose labyrinthine privacy policies with "opt-out" clauses buried deep inside. The bottom line is this ... unless I specifically authorize or opt-in to each and every piece of software or applets or interactive-with-the-internet processes, it does not belong on my computer.

I've spent countless hours tweaking my security settings and fighting off and removing spyware and adware. It's the cyber equivalent of a salesman at the door who shoves his samples through your mail slot.

Unless I open the door and let someone into my home, they are trespassing. If I am in a car on a public road, it still does not give anyone a de-fact, opt-out right of entry to my vehicle. Treat a computer like a car ... whether it's locked or unlocked, it's still against the law for a specifically unauthorized person to go joyriding in it ... why is the same not true for my driving on the information superhighway. Why can companies gain access to my car or throw garbage into my open window ... it's a no-brainer.

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